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**State of Utah**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Division of Oil, Gas & Mining**

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director  
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Division Director

**Inspection Report**  
**Minerals Regulatory Program**  
Report Date November 2, 2005

Supervisor                     

**Mine Name:** Big Thomson Clay Mine  
**Operator Name:** Brown Brothers Construction Company  
**Inspector(s):** Paul Baker  
**Other Participants:** None  
**Mine Status:** Inactive (at present)

**Permit number:** S/017/047  
**Inspection Date:** September 12, 2005  
**Time:** 6:30-7:00 PM

**Weather:** Clear, 80's

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Concurrent Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Water Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Purpose of Inspection:**

I was in the area to visit another mine site and decided to take advantage of the chance to inspect this remote site.

**Inspection Summary:**

**7. Backfilling and Grading**

The mine area has been graded to closely match the surrounding area. The grading is good enough that I would accept it as complete, but I was told by another party (not the operator) that additional clay may be taken from this pit for another job.

**9. Soils**

Soils in surrounding areas appear to be derived from shale and sandstone. I could not tell that the operator had salvaged any soil. This was probably not necessary in the shale outcrop areas, but in adjacent areas, there are places with a sandstone veneer over the shale (Photo 3). It is probably very thin and probably would have been difficult to save without contaminating it with the underlying shale.

**10. Revegetation**

There is essentially no vegetation on the clay outcrops, but on the flats where there is a sandstone veneer, there is about 15 percent vegetation cover. Photo 3 shows the cover in an undisturbed area.



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12. Other

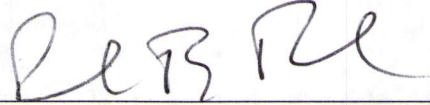
I took GPS readings around the perimeter of the disturbed area, and the map created from this data is attached to this report. The disturbed area is 1.48 acres.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

If the operator does not plan to do further mining at this site, it should be seeded this fall. The disturbed area, particularly the flatter areas where there was probably some vegetation before any mining, should be roughened, and seed should be applied right after surface preparation. I did not note the species present in the undisturbed area, but from Photo 3, vegetation appears to be dominated by shadscale and galleta.

If additional areas are to be disturbed, the operator should try to salvage topsoil. This may be difficult as discussed above.

**Inspector's Signature**



**Date:** November 2, 2005

**Directions to Site:**

The site is on the west side of the Burr Trail 14.5 miles north of SR 276.

PBB:jb

cc: Albert Brown, Operator  
John Blake, SITLA

Attachment: GPS Map & Photo Attachment

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## ATTACHMENT

### Photographs

S/017/047, Big Thomson Clay Mine, Brown Brothers Construction Company

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**Photo 1.** This photo and Photos 2 and 4 show various views of the disturbed area.



**Photo 3.** An adjacent undisturbed area. Note the amount of vegetation on the thin veneer of soil in the foreground compared to the clay slopes in the background.

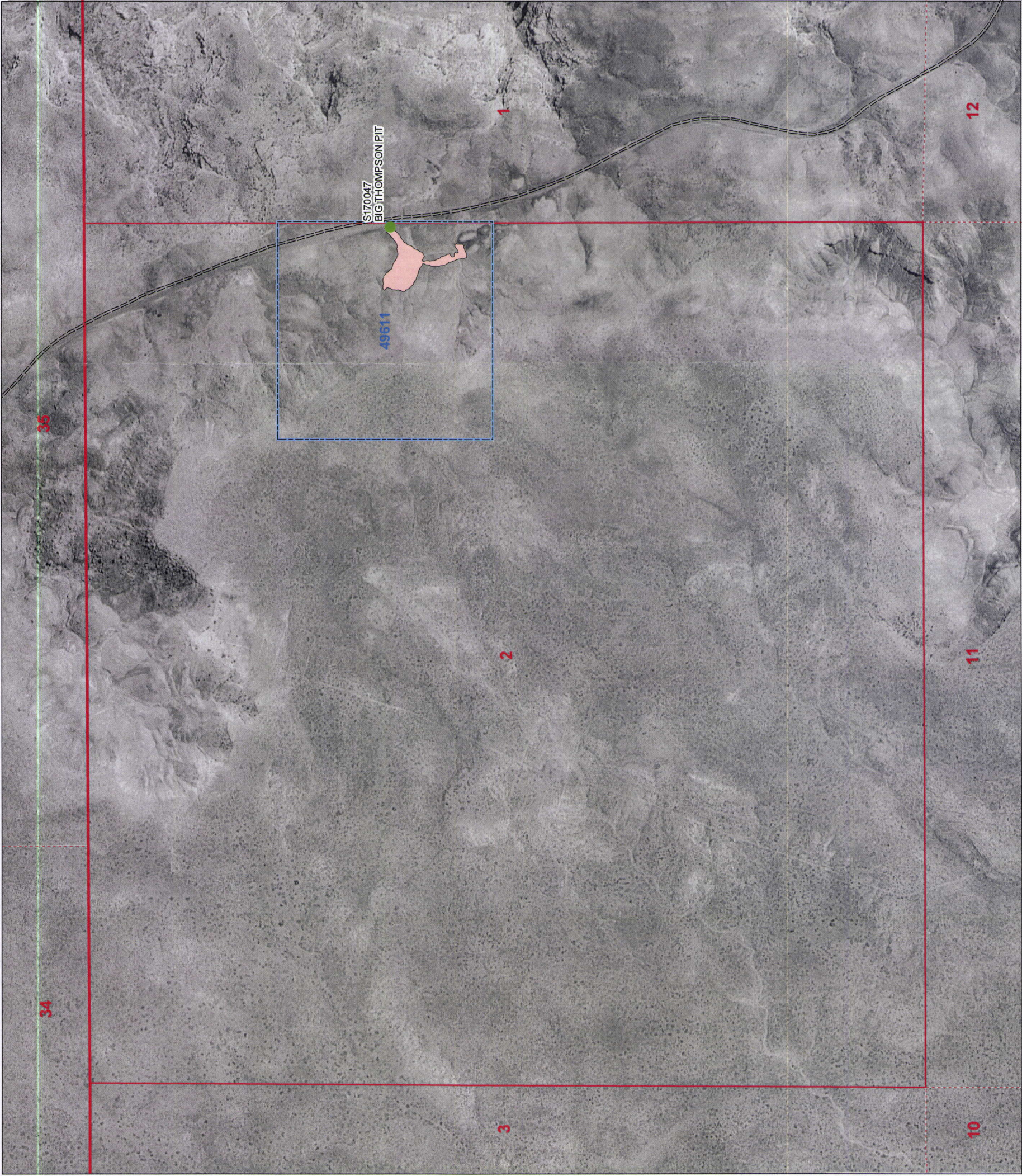


**Photo 2.**



**Photo 4.**





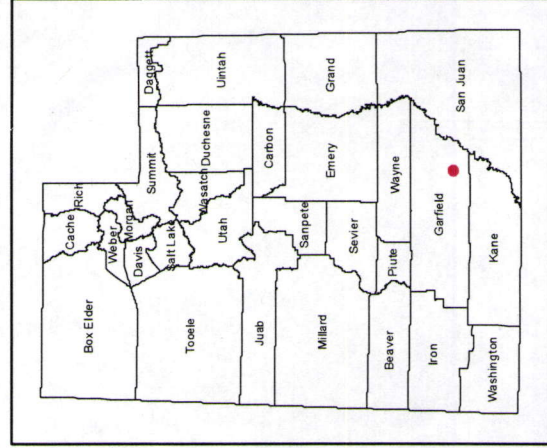
**Mine Number: M0170047**  
**Mine Name: Big Thompson Pit**  
**Township 36 S Range 09 E Section 02 SLBM**

Inspection Date Sept. 12, 2005  
Map Produced by DKS

Acres Disturbed	1.49
Acres Regraded	0
Acres Seeded	0
Road Acres Disturbed	0
Total Acres Disturbed	1.49
Acres Released	0
Acres Excluded	0
Acres PreExisting	0
Acres Prelaw	0

- Legend**  
All items symbolized in legend may not be appear on map
- County Boundary
  - Access
  - Mine
  - NonMine
  - Other
  - Interstate
  - US Route
  - State Route
  - Primary Route
  - Secondary Route
  - Main Dirt Road
  - Unimproved Road
  - Interchange
  - Trail
  - Township or range line: location doubtful
  - Section line
  - Section line: location doubtful
  - Disturbed
  - Regraded
  - Seeded
  - Released
  - Excluded
  - PreExisting
  - Prelaw
  - Bond Area
  - SITLA Mineral Leases
  - BLM Leases
  - Community Pit

DOQ imagery date 2004



0 625  
Feet  
1:7,500 1 inch equals 625 feet  
Verify Scale

Dept. of Natural Resources  
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
Mineral Mines Program

Different data sources and input scales  
may cause misalignment of data layers.  
This product may not meet DOGM  
standards for accuracy and content.